

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 104823
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 104823

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 7791 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 06 MAY

QTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 7791

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US, LY

SUBJECT: FAHMY'S COMMENT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S ORAL MESSAGE TO
PRESIDENT SADAT

REF: (A) STATE 095802, (B) CAIRO 7324

1. WHEN MEETING WITH FAHMY YESTERDAY, I ASKED IF HE HAD
DELIVERED THE ORAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SADAT. HE
SAID HE HAD, BUT EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT ABOUT THE
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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 104823

MESSAGE. IT HAD, IN HIS WORDS, "MADE NO COMMITMENT"
TO ASSIST EGYPT IN ITS CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH SOVIETS
OR WITH LIBYA. HE PROFESSED TO BE WORRIED, MOREOVER,
THAT OUR QUEST FOR A DIALOGUE WITH LIBYA IS ENCOURAGING
QADHAFI AND THE SOVIETS TO ATTACK EGYPT IN THE PUBLIC
MEDIA. HE IMPLIED, BUT HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY STATE,
THAT HE WAS GIVING SADAT'S REACTION.

2. I SAID THAT I WAS SURPRISED AT HIS REACTION. THERE HAD BEEN NO TALK OF ANY COMMITMENTS BEING SOUGHT OR FOR THAT MATTER NEEDED. I RECALLED THAT FAHMY, WHEN TELLING ME ABOUT THE SOVIET MESSAGE AND HIS TALK WITH POLYAKOV, HAD MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT GOE HAD TAKEN THE MEASURE OF THE SOVIETS IN THE PAST AND INTENDED TO DO SO AGAIN. PRESIDENT CARTER'S ORAL MESSAGE REFLECTED FAHMY'S EXPRESSED VIEW THAT GOE WOULD TAKE CARE OF THIS MATTER AND INDICATED USG CONFIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD COME OUT OF THE AFFAIR "SADDER BUT WISER." THIS WAS CERTAINLY A MARK OF CONFIDENCE IN GOE'S ABILITY TO HANDLE THE SITUATION. SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS, IT SEEMED TO ME, UNDERSCORED THE CORRECTNESS OF THE GOE ESTIMATE. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HIS COMMENT ABOUT "NO COMMITMENT" SEEMED TO BE REDUNDANT. AS FAR AS LIBYA IS CONCERNED, I HAD EXPLAINED TO HIM AND TO PRESIDENT SADAT OUR POLICY TOWARD THAT COUNTRY (CAIRO 7106). THERE SHOULD CERTAINLY BE NO UNCERTAINTY ON THE PART OF OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS RE OUR VIEWS ON THIS MATTER.

3. FAHMY GRUMBLED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT AND HE HAD HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE A SOMEWHAT MORE FORTHCOMING REPLY. SADAT, HE NOTED, IS STILL AWAITING OUR RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR ARMS FOR AFRICA. THE SOVIET MESSAGE AND THE EGYPTIAN RESPONSE, FAHMY CONTENDED, MUST BE READ IN THE LIGHT OF SOVIET-LIBYAN COLLUSION NOT ONLY AGAINST EGYPT BUT AGAINST OTHER PRO-WESTERN GOVTS IN AFRICA. EILTS UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 03 STATE 104823

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